



The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership

Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners Conference
November 6, 2013

Stacey Eriksen
Urban Watershed
Revitalization Coordinator
Eriksen.Stacey@epa.gov
303-312-6692

November 6, 2013



EPA Voluntary Programs

- Urban Waters Partnership
- Partnership for Sustainable Communities
- Green Infrastructure
- Water Sense
- Brownfields
- Revitalization
- Support for FEMA

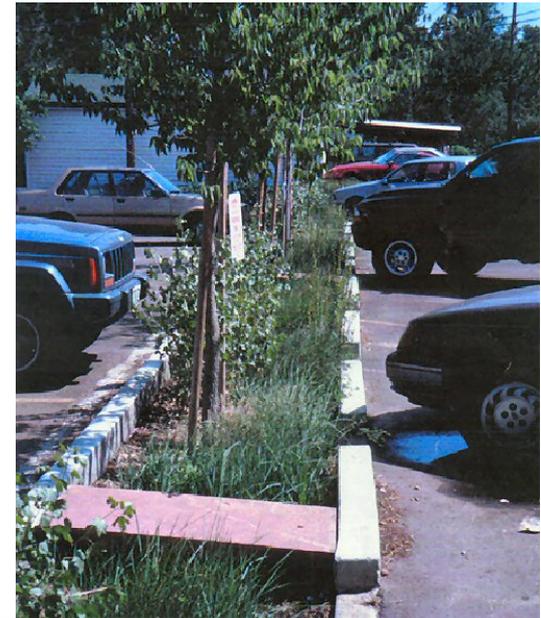


Green Infrastructure

Systems that mimic a natural hydrologic cycle to take stormwater and slow it down, spread it out, and soak it in.

Can be integrated into:

- ✓ Parks, open space, urban forestry
- ✓ Parking lot landscaping requirements
- ✓ Climate adaptation strategies
- ✓ Smart growth/ sustainability/ resilience strategies
- ✓ Flood restoration



Value of Green Infrastructure

- Stormwater management
- Climate adaptation
- Urban heat island reduction
- Biodiversity
- Air quality improvements
- Clean water
- Healthy soils
- Recreation
- Quality of life



Barriers to GI in the Semi-Arid West

- Perceived design, construction & maintenance costs
- Mixed messages & lack of connections from different governmental agencies & departments
- Misperception on economics
- Lack of integration into regional & site planning
- Lack of trust in new technologies



Types of Green Infrastructure

- Green Roofs
- Rain Gardens
- Bioswales/Bioretention Cells
- Ponds
- Porous Pavements
- Rainwater Harvesting



Websites and Tools

- Western examples (CO, UT, MT, WY, ND, SD):
<http://www2.epa.gov/region8/green-infrastructure>
- Barriers analysis in Boulder area:
<http://www.keepitcleanpartnership.org/>
- UDFCD Volume 3 Criteria Manual
http://udfcd.org/downloads/down_critmanual_volIII.htm
- EPA National Green Infrastructure webpage
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm>
- New national stormwater calculator
<http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/wswrd/wq/models/swc/>
- Green infrastructure tools
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/>
- Colorado Stormwater Center
<http://stormwatercenter.colostate.edu>





Funding Sources

- Section 319 nonpoint source grants
- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund
- Urban Waters Small Grants
- Green infrastructure technical assistance
- Revitalization funding
- Brownfields area-wide planning grants
- Brownfields job-training grants
- Brownfields assesement, revolving loan fund, and cleanup grants

UWP Green Infrastructure Projects

- DHA GI design charrette
- Westerly Creek GI design
- ULC GI design for 38th & Blake
- S. Platte Brownfields corridor planning
- River North GI design
- Sun Valley and Johnson/Habitat Park GI design



LEGEND

- ① RETAINING WALL
- ② MARSH WETLAND
- ③ ASPHALT PATH
- ④ PICNIC GROVE
- ⑤ STEPPED RAMP - GARDEN ACCESS
- ⑥ STEPPING STONE CREEK CROSSING
- ⑦ STONE CREEK EDGE
- ⑧ NATIVE GRASS SLOPES
- ⑨ PLAY LAWN
- ⑩ DECK OVERLOOK
- ⑪ PARK LIGHT



Urban Waters Partnership Federal Agencies





Federal Role

- Help communities, especially underserved communities
- Align our & fed government programs and investments
- Expand partnerships
- Build local capacity
- Find innovative ways to communicate environmental & economic potential of safe & clean urban waters

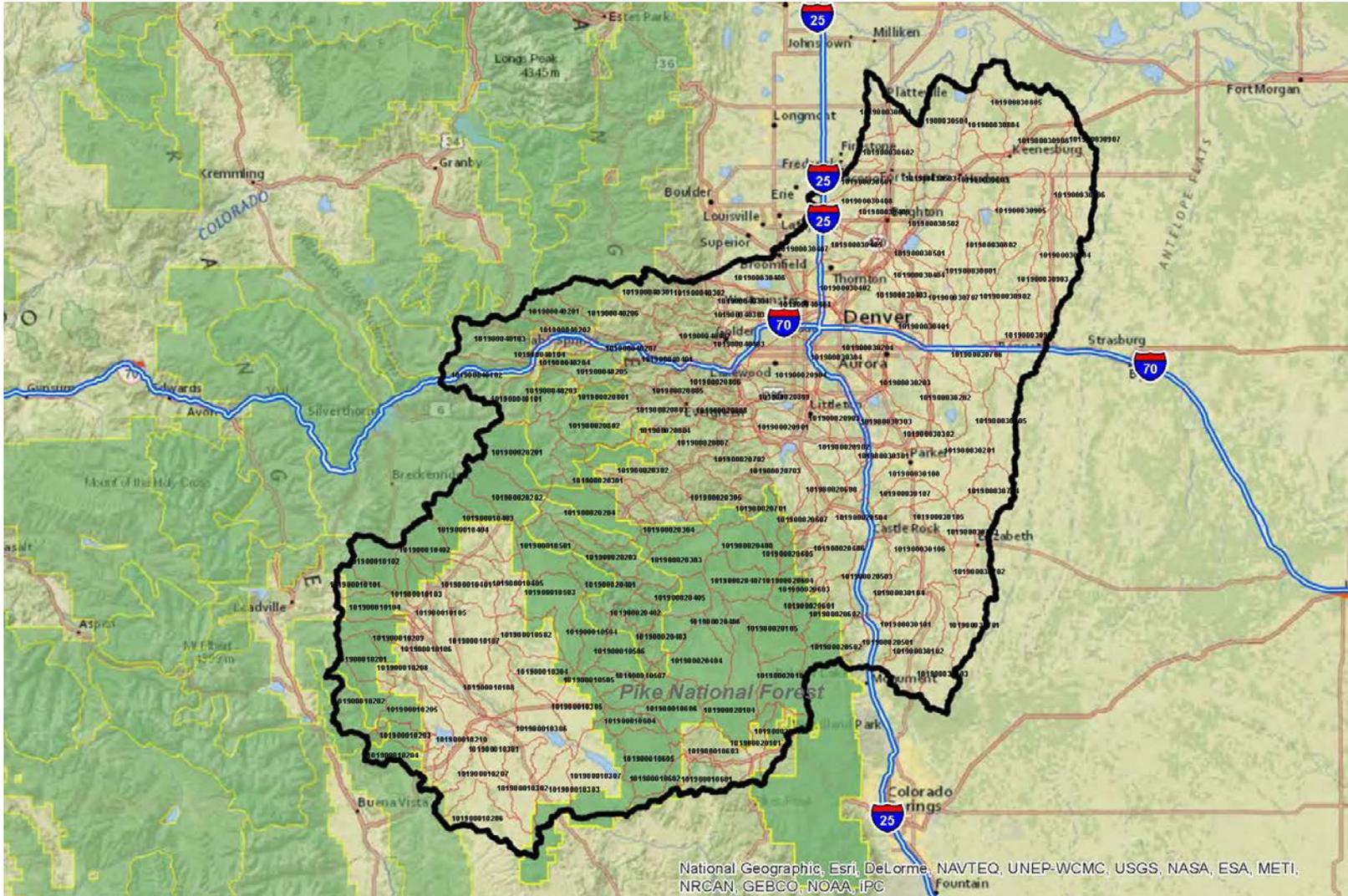
Original 7 Pilot Locations



Partners:

- Trust for Public Lands
- The Greenway Foundation
- Groundwork Denver
- Coalition for the Upper S Platte
- National Forest Foundation
- Colorado Watershed Assembly
- Barr-Milton Watershed Association
- Chatfield Area Network for Outreach & Educ.
- Earth Force
- South Platte CURE
- Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership
- Westerly Connection
- Institute for Environmental Solutions
- Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
- City and County of Denver
- City of Aurora
- City of Englewood
- Adams County
- Jefferson County
- Douglas County
- Tri-County Health Dept.
- Jefferson Conservation District
- Urban Drainage & Flood Control District
- Denver Water
- Aurora Water
- CDPHE
- Colorado State Forest Service
- USEPA
- USFS
- NPS RTCA
- ATSDR
- USGS
- USACE
- HUD
- NRCS
- USFWS
- USDOJ

Focus Area



Why and How

Why: Environmental and Economic Health of the River

- Restore and protect urban waters.
- Improve access to urban waters.
- Increase awareness of the benefits of urban waters - public health, economic growth and quality of life.
- Promote community revitalization.

How: Collaboration

- Increase communication and share expertise.
- Look for resource efficiencies of all kinds.
- Facilitate project funding.
- Make the most of our economic tools and incentives.
- Engage and serve the local communities.



Our Mission

The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership collaborates across jurisdictions and disciplines to engage communities, and to protect and restore the South Platte River and Watershed.



Our Goals:

- Collaborate, educate and engage.
 - Raise water awareness.
- Connect people with water.
- Protect and restore through leveraging resources
 - Improve water quality
 - Increase water security
- Communicate achievements and share technical information



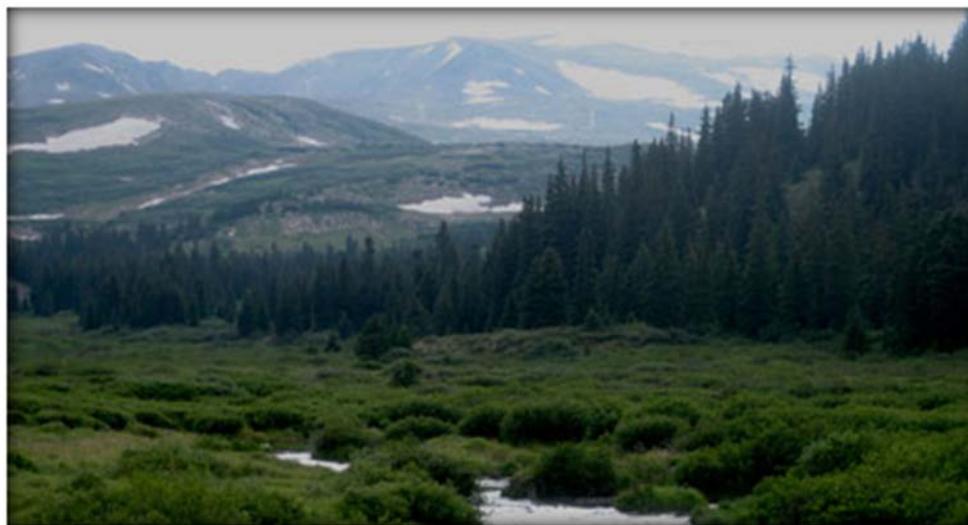
Issues Being Addressed:

- Water Quality
 - E. Coli
 - Nutrients
 - Arsenic
 - Trash
- Storm Water
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Messaging to Change Behaviors
- Source Water Protection
 - Forest Treatment
 - Watershed Protection Projects



Workgroups for 2013

- GeoMapping
- Systems Thinking
- Watershed-wide Education and Engagement
- Water Quality
- Funding



Geomapping

Urban Waters Mapper
 revitalizing our urban waters and the communities that surround them
 Help

174.129.206.198/urbanwaters/index.html

Projects: 12/2009 - 8/2014

Things Happening Now (119)

Project Type

- Backrunner projects (0)
- Education, outreach, training, Green jobs (16)
- Forest restoration/protection/management (0)
- Green infrastructure/low impact development for stormwater (0)
- Research and monitoring (3)
- River/stream/wetlands restoration/conservation/flood protection(16)
- Trash cleanup (15)
- Tree planting and invasive species removal (32)
- Water quality improvements (1)
- Water access, trails, recreation, parks, open space(17)

Basemap | Twitter Feed | Add Data | Manage

Select Map Contents

- Water Monitoring Stations
 - USGS Water Monitors (NWIS)
 - EPA Water Monitors (STORET)
- Wetlands
 - Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
 - Estuarine and Marine Wetland
 - Freshwater Emergent Wetland
 - Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
 - Freshwater Pond
 - Lake
 - Other
 - Riverine
- Green Space
 - Schools
 - Churches
 - Hospitals
 - Impaired Streams
 - Impaired Water Bodies
 - Watershed Boundary Dataset (HUC12)
 - Watersheds (HUC8)
 - Congressional Districts
 - Urban Areas
 - City Boundaries
 - Federal Lands
 - Zip Codes
 - Counties
 - States

Project Details

Exploring the Ecology of Your Local Landscape

Hands-on skill practice and exploration of watershed topics and human influences.

Date:07/11/2013
 Organization(s):Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
 Contact:
 Email:casey@cherry-creek.org
 Phone:303-345-1675
 Web Site:http://www.cherry-creek.org/upcoming_events_and_registration
 Contact Organization:Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners

Zoom to

0 2 4mi

NPS, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, USDA, EPA, TomTom

1:19 PM 9/13/2013

Systems Thinking Project

- *Component parts of a system can be best understood in the context of relationships with each other & with other systems, rather than in isolation (ecosystems, organizations)*
- Evaluation of partner expertise and projects
 - ID leverage points
 - ID gaps, duplications and opportunities for synergies
 - Assist in establishing priorities and focus areas
- Feed into Strategic Planning

Watershed-wide Education and Engagement

Internal

- Developing common messages
- Understand our Partnership "101" - Host events to get to know partner organizations and expertise

External

- Story telling
- Raise Visibility and awareness



Water Quality

- Developed survey of Partnership members to determine:
 - Who is collecting data
 - Type of data
 - Data source location
 - Data availability
- Compiling into resource tool for Partners
- Next steps: Look for gaps or needs and develop strategy to address.



Funding

- Look into convening a gathering of funders to inform them of Urban Waters Partnership organizations and activities.
- Create inventory of potential funding sources and track over time.
- Identify and promote economic benefits of Urban Waters projects and related work.



CDC Projects

Public and Environmental Health + Urban Waters:

- Green Infrastructure Demonstration Projects
- Water Center
- Water Quality/Connectivity Study



Moving Forward...

Continue to provide opportunity for people to work together.

Introduce groups that don't know each other to create synergies, minimize competition and avoid duplication.

Identify key leverage points and focus work toward those areas where collaborative work will have greatest impact.

Build local capacity for working at regional level.

Find innovative ways to communicate environmental & economic potential of safe & clean urban waters.





The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership

Thank You!

October 23, 2013